VZCZCXRO5556
PP RUEHROV RUEHTRO
DE RUEHRB #0946 3361654
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 021654Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0871
INFO RUEHXK/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

UNCLAS RABAT 000946

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG AND NEA/IPA

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL PGPV PNAT KPAL KWBG MO IS XF

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: ISRAEL'S SETTLEMENT MORATORIUM

**REF: STATE 122214** 

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY.

(SBU) Polcouns delivered subject demarche to Director General for Arab and Islamic Relations Mohammed Azeroual on Dec. 1. Azeroual stated that the settlement moratorium in the West Bank was "a step forward, but incomplete." He noted specifically excluding Jerusalem from the settlement moratorium was unacceptable for Palestinian President Abbas, and for much of the Arab world. He confirmed the need for all parties to seize the opportunity of President Obama's engagement on the peace process and expressed Morocco's willingness to continue talking to all sides. He also suggested that if the Israelis were to enforce a full, across-the-board moratorium applicable to all areas, they would see a positive response from Arab countries that have been less willing than Morocco to engage the Israeli side.

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JACKSON